

Sent to Washington 3/10/91

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

CLICK HERE for Multiple Property Listing,
Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District
Multiple Property Submission"

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Trumbull Park

other names/site number Park #16, Trondale Park

2. Location

street & number 2400 E. 105th St. not for publication

city or town Chicago vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Cook code 031 zip code 60617

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Wheeler, SHPO 3-17-91
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- [] other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	1	objects
4	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LANDSCAPE/park
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
- OTHER/fieldhouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LANDSCAPE/park
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
- OTHER/fieldhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
- Beaux Arts Classicism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation CONCRETE
- walls CONCRETE
- roof ASPHALT
- other EARTH
- VEGETATION

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Landscape Architecture
- Architecture
- Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1911-1944

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

South Park Commission

Trumbull Park

Cook County, Illinois

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.52

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 16 4 5 12 9 13 0 4 6 1 17 3 0 10

2 1 16 4 5 13 1 13 0 4 6 1 17 3 0 10

3 1 16 4 5 13 1 13 0 4 6 1 16 9 1 10

4 1 16 4 5 12 9 13 0 4 6 1 16 9 1 10

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erica Fox, Graduate Student and Julia Sniderman, Instructor, Historic Preservation, Art Institute of Chicago

organization Chicago Park District date December 5, 1994

street & number 425 E. McPettridge Dr. telephone (312)747-0551

city or town Chicago state Illinois zip code 60605

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Chicago Park District

street & number 425 E. McPettridge Drive telephone (312) 747-0551

city or town Chicago state Illinois zip code 60605

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Trumbull Park

Trumbull Park is a 18.52 acre site located on Chicago's south side at 10300- south and 2400 east. It is one of four parks, approximately twenty acres in size, that the South Park Commission began planning in 1907, within two years of the introduction of its revolutionary system of neighborhood parks. Land was acquired between 1907 and 1909, and the following year, the landscape architects responsible for the original system of neighborhood parks, the Olmsted Brothers, were hired to develop plans for all four new parks. The firm developed plans for each of what were then considered parks #15, 16, 17 and 18 between 1910 and 1912. Initial improvements such as grading, fencing and the construction of temporary shelters and comfort stations were conducted so that the public could begin using the parks.

Permanent improvements to Park #16, Trumbull Park, were finally undertaken in 1915. Its fieldhouse was designed by South Park Commission in-house staff rather than Daniel H. Burnham and Co., the firm responsible for all of the architecture for the earlier system of neighborhood parks. The large monumental building was clearly inspired by the collection of neighborhood park buildings that had previously been designed by the Burnham firm. The design of Trumbull Park's landscape can also be attributed to South Park Commission in-house staff though it strongly reflects the influence of the Olmsted Brothers. The park included all of the program elements that were first tested in the original system of neighborhood parks. These are: the ball field, fieldhouse with men's and women's indoor gymnasiums, swimming pool, women's outdoor gymnasium near a children's playground and wading pool, men's outdoor gymnasium with running track, service yard, and boiler house. The landscape design also relates to some of the specific recommendations made by the Olmsted Brothers for parks #15, 16, 17, and 18. The reasons that the South Park Commission did not implement the Olmsted Brothers plan for Trumbull Park are unknown, however, it is likely that some of the modifications were influenced by a decade of experience with the new park type.

By 1915, when Trumbull Park's permanent improvements were undertaken, numerous neighborhood parks had already been constructed and many were then under construction in areas throughout Chicago as well as other American cities. Trumbull Park was quite representative of the South Park Commission's neighborhood parks which tended to include formal landscape elements and classically inspired architecture. This design vocabulary was different from the neighborhood parks of the West Park Commission. These tended to be extremely small, and often had Prairie style landscapes designed by Jens Jensen and brick buildings that were also

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often rendered in the Prairie style. The architecture of the Lincoln Park Commission's neighborhood parks also tended to include Prairie style buildings, many of which were designed by Dwight H. Perkins. In addition, the site planning for the Lincoln Park Commission's neighborhood parks does not appear to have relied upon the strict organization or zoning that tends to characterize the South Park Commission parks. This is also true for many of the neighborhood parks of the nineteen additional park commissions, which had various recreational features loosely organized around an elliptical or irregularly configured ball field. The architecture of the neighborhood parks of the nineteen additional park commissions was also generally constructed of brick. Executed in Prairie, Tudor, and Georgian Revival styles, these were quite different from the concrete Beaux Arts style buildings of the South Park Commission's neighborhood parks.

Over the years, Trumbull Park has continued to meet the frequently changing needs of its surrounding community for nearly eighty years, it has also retained a very high level of integrity. The park is primarily composed of contributing features, and it retains important landscape features. The landscape plan for two other parks, Grand Crossing, which was park #15, and Tuley, which was park #18 were nearly identical to that of Trumbull Park. While those parks generally retain good integrity today, Trumbull Park has an even higher level of integrity because of its large number of formally planted ginkgo and Siberian elm trees.

In order to clearly describe Trumbull Park and show that it retains sufficient integrity to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, two corresponding plans are submitted as part of this nomination: an undated drawing which appears to be the original implemented plan c. 1915 [A]; and a current plot plan [B]. Features are numbered and keyed onto both plans. In addition, recommendations by the Olmsted Brothers that were recorded in the minutes of a June 30, 1911 meeting of the South Park Commission will be referenced to help explain their influence on the park's design by in-house staff members.

Trumbull Park is bounded on the north by E. 103rd Street; on the south by E. 105th Street, on the east by S. Bensley Street, and on the west by S. Oglesby Street. When the South Park Commission began planning the park in 1907 they anticipated rapid growth surrounding the park due to the development of steel mills in Irondale. The area, however, never became as densely populated as they had expected. By the 1930s the neighborhoods just east, west, and north of the park were mostly composed of

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unbuilt lots and single family detached homes. The only area that had multi-family dwellings was south of the park. Many of these buildings, which may have been wooden tenement structures were razed in the 1930s for the construction of the Trumbull Park Homes, a public housing development. Today, the low-rise brick Chicago Housing Authority buildings remain along S. 105th St. and a few additional blocks to the south. The other three streets that border the park have one and two story houses on standard sized lots. Most of these are brick buildings that were constructed in the 1940s and 1950s, however, some appear to be earlier structures that were remodeled during that period.

Rectangular in configuration, Trumbull Park's composition is divided in two halves following a line on center with E. 104th Street. On the north side of that line there is a square ball field, and on the south side are all of the park's other features including the fieldhouse, playground, running track, swimming pool and service yard. This arrangement, which is well intact today [B], was shown in the historic plan for Trumbull Park [A] which is likely the original plan.

This arrangement was not specifically delineated by any of the Olmsted Brothers plans for parks #15, 16, 17, or 18, including the plan formally adopted by the South Park Commissioners on June 30, 1911. In that plan (Park #17, file 1930, no. 8), as in the many of the schemes developed by the Olmsted Brothers, the site was divided into three parts rather than two. One third of the landscape was devoted to a tear-drop shaped lawn; one third was the architectural components; swimming pool, outdoor gymnasiums, wading pool and children's playground; and the remaining third was a rectangular ball field. It is likely that by the time Trumbull Park was constructed, the ball fields and athletic components of the other neighborhood parks were so intensively used that the South Park Commission did not want to devote one-third of the site to a passive lawn.

In the Olmsted Brothers' recommendations, they suggested that the park "should be enclosed in such a way as to shut out some of the noise and dust of the surrounding streets and to protect the park features of the interior." Possible treatments to achieve this objective were fencing, trees and shrubs, or a raised terrace "as at the Tuilleries in Paris." The Olmsted Brothers also recommended that the designs for parks #15 through #18 should include "promenades, groves, bandstand, sheltered seats, gardens, and possibly fountains, for quiet and rest and the gentler forms of amusements."

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The implemented design did not include a terrace raised above street level as some of the Olmsted Brothers plans showed, however, it did have a depressed ball field [1] surrounded by walks, perimeter plantings of trees and shrubs, and iron picket fencing at the east, west, and north sides. A formal promenade [2] located at the south end of the ball field, on axis with 104th Street, was enclosed by an allee of ginkgo trees. At the center of the promenade there was a formal concourse with a grid of ginkgo trees [3]. This concourse featured a rounded terrace and stairway leading down into the ball field. These elements were commonly used in the Olmsted Brothers designs for the fourteen original neighborhood parks. The symmetry of the elements, grid of trees, and planting in a monoculture are all treatments that were used in French Renaissance landscapes.

Many of the trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the ball field are now missing. Plans in the files of the Chicago Park District indicate that many of these plantings were removed in the 1950s. The original iron picket fence is also missing today, and it may have been removed during the same period. Fortunately, the other elements are well intact. The ball field grade remains lower than the concourse, and the concrete stairway leading down to the ball field is also intact. The top of the rounded concrete walls can still be seen, although the sides are now obscured by sloped lawn in the ball field. In the lawn at the foot of the stairway there is a flag pole. Although a flag pole was placed in Trumbull Park in 1912, it is likely that the existing pole is not the original.

The promenade and concourse are still beautifully defined by the mature ginkgo trees. Approximately six of the original trees in the center of the concourse were removed in the 1950s to provide space for an outdoor dance floor, however, most if not all of the others remain. The original macadam road surface of the promenade and concourse was replaced with asphalt many years ago. Fortunately, cars are discouraged from parking there, and because the ginkgo trees play such an important role in defining spatial character, the historic integrity of this area is very strong.

In the center of the concourse, there is a sculptural drinking fountain [4]. Dedicated as a memorial to war veterans, the fountain was installed in Trumbull Park in 1947. Composed of a polished brown granite, it has a central pylon with a fountain basin on each of its four sides. Although the sculptor is unknown, it is a well-designed memorial dedicated to the "sons and daughters of South Deering" who served in World War II. Its streamline design is articulated in its clean cube-like basins,

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rectangular center pylon, and an incised eagle detail with an exaggerated horizontal wing spread.

The fieldhouse [5] was designed by South Park Commission in-house staff. It is possible that the building can be attributed to Linn White, who served as Chief Engineer, however, the earliest rendering, dated December, 1914 bears the signature of Guy Wilfrid Haylor. [It seems likely that this name credits the rendering rather than the architectural design.] The building is identical to the Grand Crossing Park fieldhouse (park #15). In fact, only one set of construction documents was developed for both projects. Both of the fieldhouses were constructed in 1915.

The Trumbull Park fieldhouse [5] was not configured in the manner shown in the majority of the Olmsted Brothers plans for parks #15 through #18. The plans included building configurations similar to the 1904-5 architectural designs by Edward Bennett of D. H. Burnham and Co. for the original South Park Commission neighborhood parks. In those parks, spatial organizations were reminiscent of the of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Structures or units of buildings were symmetrically grouped in complexes. Frequently, the assembly hall and club room building was in the center and was flanked on each side by the gymnasium and locker room buildings. This created a monumental sense of entry, and also formed outdoor courtyards. Quite often the swimming pool was within the center of this "outdoor room," similar to the World's Fair's Court of Honor, a grand canal flanked by classical buildings.

Although the Olmsted Brothers had specifically suggested this arrangement for the architecture of parks #15 through 18 in their recommendations to the South Park Commissioners, the Trumbull Park fieldhouse was configured in a different manner. Cruciform in plan, the fieldhouse has a long gabled central building that extends north-south, bisected by a hipped roof building that extends east-west. Despite this deviation, influences of the Burnham firm architecture in this Beaux Arts style two story building are clear. The Trumbull Park fieldhouse is composed of exposed aggregate concrete, sometimes referred to as "marblecrete," the building material of all of the earlier neighborhood park architecture. As with those buildings, historically the Trumbull Park fieldhouse was unpainted. The exterior walls revealed the natural pale gray color and bumpy texture of the building material. Classically derived architectural concrete details were molded into and applied onto the exterior walls. Today, the details remain

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intact, however, the original color and texture of the fieldhouse have changed because it has been gunited and painted light tan.

The north facade, which faces the ball field, was the original entry into the building [6]. Although the facade remains intact, this entrance is no longer used due to security issues. The north facade is composed of a monumental rounded arched opening flanked by two pair of pilasters. The upper portion of the arch pierces the center of the pediment. The rounded arch has an ornamental keystone. Above the keystone, in the center of the pediment, there is an ornamented cartouche flanked by swags and wreath-like garlands. The gable has an overhanging eave with exposed rafter tails. Following the pitch of the roof, there is a cornice composed of three projecting bands. Two of the three bands are dentils. The lowest band is solid with simple projecting trim. The paired pilasters are fluted and are applied to projecting surrounds. On the frieze above each pilaster is an applied rosette, with four petals.

The upper part of the rounded arch is composed of a grid of square window openings. Beneath this is a center door flanked on each side by sidelights with small square windows. There is a cornice above the door and windows, and a bracketed pediment above the door. There is a medallion in the center of the pediment.

The south facade, which faces the swimming pool, is very similar in design to the north facade. It, however, does not have the swags, garlands and other ornamentation on its pediment. The upper portion of the rounded arch has a grid of square window openings like the north facade. Beneath this is a cornice without the center pediment of the north facade. Four evenly spaced pilasters rest beneath the cornice. Originally, there were elongated windows between the pilasters, but they were later filled in. Another alteration to this area is a metal doorway and concrete stoop that was placed between the two easternmost pilasters.

Set back from these north and south facades of the gabled section of the fieldhouse are the north and south facades of the hipped roof part of the building. These facades are identical, and both sides of each facade, which extend symmetrically east and west from the center gabled section, are identical. The elements of these facades follow a simplified version of the vocabulary of elements found in the facades of the gabled section of the fieldhouse. The bays are divided by pilasters. The inner bays have large segmental arched windows above two smaller square windows. The outer bay of each side has four square windows with union jack sash motifs.

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The east and west facades of the building are also identical. They are composed of several sections: the center entryways within the hipped roof section of the building, flanked by flat roofed hyphens that connect to the long rectangular facades of the gabled part of the building. The gabled extensions are identical. They have paired elongated false windows at each extreme end. The five center bays are each divided by pilasters. Within each bay is an upper segmental arched window and a lower rectangular window. The flat roofed hyphens are one-story sections. One of the hyphens has a band of union jack windows. The other has a secondary doorway which today includes a ramp providing access for disabled people. The center section of the east and west facades is within the hipped roof portion of the building. These facades are identical. They have a center pedimented doorway, and two bands of union jack windows.

Overall, the fieldhouse retains good integrity. There are only a few major changes to the historic appearance of the building. These are: the replacement of the original clay tile roofing with asphalt; a change in the historic surface of the exterior because the building was sprayed with gunnite, and the painted exterior rather than the original exposed aggregate concrete. The fieldhouse retains many historic interior features including original dark stained woodwork in several rooms, and the original changing booths in the women's locker rooms.

The site directly surrounding the fieldhouse today provides a visual context similar to the historic appearance. The historic plan [A] shows trees planted in triple formal rows just east and west of the southern gabled section of the building [6]. Today, rows of Siberian elms following this arrangement still remain. Like the promenade ginkgos, they are mature canopy trees that create a strong sense of formality.

South of the fieldhouse are the filter house [7] and swimming pool [8] and just south of the pool are the boiler house [9] and service yard [10]. The modern filter house [7] is a concrete slab structure that is approximately one half story in height. Its site was historically composed of formal plantings and an elliptical walk. Today, the concrete structure is a physical and visual barrier between the fieldhouse and swimming pool. It is not physically attached to the swimming pool, however, the filter house is located on a modern concrete deck that surrounds the pool. The swimming pool [8] remains in its historic location, and configuration. The original terra cotta lined swimming tank, however, has been replaced with a standard modern pool.

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The boiler house [9] and service yard [10] retain good integrity. Constructed in 1915, at the same time as the fieldhouse, these features look much as they did historically. The boiler house is composed of exposed aggregate concrete which has not been gunited or painted. It is a flat roofed, one story building with a simple classically inspired details such as inset square panels and pilasters. The original window openings have been filled with exposed aggregate concrete and the building suffers for deterioration including substantial cracking and spalling. Unlike many similar facilities in other south side neighborhood parks, this boiler house and service yard facility retains almost all of the original exposed aggregate walls that extend from the building to define the exterior yard space. They extend west from the boiler house and follow the same architectural vocabulary.

Historically, the landscape areas east and west of the fieldhouse, swimming pool, and boiler house were the women and men's open air gymnasiums [A]. Both were configured as long rectangular spaces culminating in an oval or elliptical shape at the north. The women's open air gymnasium was on the east side. As was typical in neighborhood park designs, the children's playground and wading pool were in the same area as the women's open air gym. The wading pool and sand courts [11] formed the semi-circular northern end of the area. The configuration of the round concrete wading pool basin was retained when the structure was converted into a spraypool. Its semicircular concrete platform, that once served as a seating area, and the original sand cut-outs are well intact. It is likely that originally a semi-circular wooden pergola extended above the concrete platform providing a shaded seating area, however, this cannot be fully documented. Today, original concrete elements, spatial characteristics, and mature trees surrounding the semi-circular element contribute to the area's historic integrity.

Today, just south of the spraypool area there is a large soft-surface playground [12]. Placed in what was originally the women's open air gymnasium, the rectangular structure is composed knee-walls made of rail-road ties filled with wood-chips and large playground equipment. Historically, this area was composed of gymnasium equipment and an occasional shade tree. A tightly planted straight row of trees divided the children's area from the women's area. That row of trees no longer exists, however, a few of the trees in the women's open air gymnasium area remain in their historic locations. The soft surface playground is a wooden feature with a character somewhat different from the original metal equipment placed in an open area. The

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structure is generally unobtrusive, although its placement is within what was originally the straight row of trees between the women's and children's areas.

The men's open air gymnasium is located on the west side of the fieldhouse and swimming pool. With the exception of the loss of the original amount of plantings, this area is well intact. The original men's running track [13] mirrors the semi-circular configuration of the wading pool and sand-cut outs on the east side of the fieldhouse. Today, the men's cinder running track remains, and continues to be utilized. In recent years, a basket ball court was placed in the center of the running track. To the south of the running track are tennis courts [14]. These were also shown in the park's historic plan [A]. Although the tennis courts have been updated and remodeled over the years, they are in their historic locations and help convey the historic appearance of the area. In recent years, additional tennis courts were added to the south end of what was originally the women's open air gymnasium area.

Today, Trumbull Park continues to provide numerous and diverse recreational programs within a neighborhood park that strongly conveys its historic character. The way in which the South Park Commission in-house designers were influenced by the legacy of architecture by D.H. Burnham and Co. and landscape architecture of the Olmsted Brothers remains clear. Trumbull Park is missing many of its original formally planted trees, particularly in perimeter areas. As formal historic landscapes rarely remain fully intact, this is an example of such a landscape with an exceptionally high degree of integrity. The architectural elements are well intact. The original layout, spatial characters and grading also remain. In addition, Trumbull Park has intact allees and concourse monoculture plantings of ginkgo and Siberian elm trees. Together, these features contribute to an overall glorious effect of this historic landscape.

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List of Features in Trumbull Park

Contributing Features

Site

Landscape

Buildings

Fieldhouse

Boiler house

Structures

Spraypool

Objects

Non-contributing Features

Filter house

Swimming pool

Fountain

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Trumbull Park meets Criterion A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to its significance in the continued development of the South Park Commission's neighborhood park system. After the South Park Commission enjoyed great success with its first generation of small parks, it immediately set out to create more parks in the crowded immigrant neighborhoods of the south side of Chicago. Trumbull Park is of local significance because of its architecture and landscape design, as well as its recreational and social history. It was designed in-house (Chicago Park District Active Vault), however its architecture and landscape exhibit the strong influences of the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm, and D. H. Burnham and Company, architects. Trumbull Park's period of significance spans from 1911, when initial improvements were made, to 1944, the arbitrary fifty year cut-off date for the inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The park qualifies for listing in the National Register under the multiple property documentation form entitled "The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District."

The Chicago Park system was formerly comprised of three bodies; the Lincoln, the West, and the South Park Commissions. The designers of Jackson and Washington Parks, which comprised the original South Park system, were the firms of Olmsted and Vaux, and D. H. Burnham and Company. As explained in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District," (Sections E, 7-11, FII, 7-11, and FIII, 10-16) one of the chief subsequent successes of the South Park Commission was the development of small neighborhood parks. These parks, which ranged from ten to sixty acres, furthered the ideals of social reformers such as Jane Addams, founder of Hull House.

As part of the Progressive Movement, which addressed such matters as child labor and public health programs, the social reformers were concerned about the lack of clean, safe places for children to play in the congested tenement districts of the city, which were primarily inhabited by new immigrants (McArthur 1989, 12). Between 1860 and 1900, Chicago grew six-fold, and in that time, only one new park was introduced. In 1899, a study found that the parts of the city that had the most park space only held 234 persons per acre of park. In the remaining twenty-three wards, many of which were on the south side, there were 4,720 persons per acre (Osborn 1928, 33). The existing parks at the time were created as pleasure grounds, mostly for families who had access to transportation, and could afford the leisure time to enjoy the parks. These conditions excluded the inhabitants - particularly the children - of the immigrant neighborhoods.

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Settlement workers and other reformers sought to create open breathing space for the immigrant neighborhoods, as well as supervised play. They began by creating playgrounds in the overpopulated neighborhoods (McArthur 1989, 10). While these inventions were the beginning of a playground movement, they tended to be little more than sand lots or dirt filled vacant spaces. The reformers often borrowed areas underneath the elevated tracks, or temporarily empty lots, in which the children could play. There was one such playground in a neighborhood known as Irondale, that would later become the context for Trumbull Park (photo c. 1900, McArthur 1989, 10).

Ultimately, the South Park Commission's programs concerned more than just pleasant green spaces. They included classes for adults, as well as a variety of other educational, social, and health services. These offerings were expected to help strengthen the community, socially as well as physically. J. Frank Foster, then the Superintendent of the South Park Commission, and the man who would implement the neighborhood parks, based his approach to small park design on the settlement projects of the reformist movement. Plans for fourteen neighborhood parks began in 1903. The following year, the Olmsted Brothers from Brookline, Massachusetts, the successor firm to Olmsted and Vaux, began designing all of the landscapes and D. H. Burnham and Company all of the structures. According to the South Park Commissioners Report of 1907, each park was meant to be useful as well as ornamental, and would have a neighborhood center - a structure that was to be known as a fieldhouse. This new building type was J. Frank Foster's adaptation of the settlements' neighborhood center - a building with a mission that was to "provide a place where physical and mental culture and wholesome recreation may be enjoyed by anyone who conducts himself properly" (South Park Commissioners 1904, 7).

During the year 1904, ten of these parks were opened to the public. The parks contained separate outdoor gymnasiums for men and women, as well as changing rooms and bathing facilities, including swimming pools. The outdoor recreational spaces included ball fields, tennis courts, running tracks, and wading pools for children next to the women's gymnasium. The fieldhouse, which made indoor winter use of the park possible, had separate men's and women's gyms, club rooms, a cafeteria, and a reading room that was often a branch of the Chicago Public Library. The parks were a great success. As early as 1908, the annual reports of the South Park Commission were full of commentaries lauding the success of the small parks. One later entry compared the

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south side of Chicago with Athens, regarding access to public activity, but pointed out that while in ancient Athens the facilities were available to "freemen," the South Park District's facilities were available to the "poorest of men, women, and children" (South Park Commissioners 1909, 10).

An influential study was released by Allen T. Burns of the "Relation of Playgrounds to Juvenile Delinquency," which found that since the advent of the ten small parks, Chicago's south side contributed less juvenile delinquency to the overall rate in Chicago than before the parks (South Park Commissioners 1909, 11). The South Park Commission was aware that the rest of the city, as well as the rest of the nation, was paying attention to their parks, as articles were widely read in such technical magazines such as *Park and Cemetery*. As historian Joan Draper has noted, although it had not initially been planned or intended, these parks had produced a general standard "not only for Chicago, but for the whole country" (Draper 1993, 6).

The success of the ten small parks gave the South Park Commission momentum to continue creating parks - specifically in four more neighborhoods on the south side. In 1907, a law was passed for the South Park Commission to acquire more land, and they bought four approximately twenty acre sites in the neighborhoods of Grand Crossing, Irondale, Hegewisch, and Burnside. These parks were known as Parks #15, #16, #17, and #18. Park #16, known unofficially as Irondale, and later officially named Lyman Trumbull Park, was located in the working class neighborhood of South Deering.

The neighborhood known as South Deering was originally called Irondale, by its inhabitants as well as by the South Park Commission, because of the steel mills surrounding the area which supplied most of the local jobs. The community was settled around 1875, with wooden tenement housing and unpaved streets. Everything depended on the success of Joseph H. Brown's Iron and Steel works, which had a turbulent history, and a variety of names: The South Chicago Furnace Company, The Deering Harvester Company, McCormick Harvester Company, which became International Harvester, and finally Wisconsin Steel Mill. In 1905, Wisconsin Steel announced that they would build a huge new mill in the area (Pacyga 1986, 423). This promise created a great deal of optimism for Irondale. While the inhabitants of Irondale were separated by their many ethnic backgrounds (Vukobratovich 1994, 36), originally Irish, English, and Welsh, and later eastern European Serbs, Croats, and Poles, all would

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benefit by a neighborhood park. Later, through sporting and social activities, it was Trumbull Park that became the peace grounds for people from all sides of Irondale (Vukobratovich 1994, 37).

In 1907, the South Park Commission bought 18.52 acres of land for a park bounded by 103rd, 105th, Oglesby, and Bensley. The annual report for that year describes Irondale as a manufacturing area, with a population of 6,500. As an explanation of the purchases of land for Irondale, as well as Grand Crossing and Hegewisch, they state that the parks would "bring the people who are now employed in the different localities, but reside elsewhere, to these places to live" (South Park Commissioners 1907, 12). It appears that the park was planned in the northwestern corner of Irondale, thus displacing few homes, although the land was indeed platted at that time. The tenement housing to the south of the park land was densely populated in the 1930 land use book, and was replaced by a Chicago Housing Authority project in 1936, called Trumbull Park Homes.

The other three sites were purchased during the same period as Trumbull Park (Park #16), and first appear in the annual report of 1907. The Table of Areas and Distances of South Parks and Boulevards of this year show Parks #15-18 as entries with acreage, but with no facilities. While the early developments of Parks #15-18 happened almost simultaneously, they had a slow start. The first documented structures were temporary warming houses for skating, built in November of 1910 (South Park Commissioners Minutes November 16, 1910- June 27, 1911). Also in that year, the Olmsted Brothers were hired to create improvement plans for all four parks.

The Olmsted Brothers, John Charles and Frederick Law Jr., had been trained in their father's office, and found great success in their own firm, which was established in 1898. Historians have viewed their work as a "link between nineteenth century romanticism and twentieth century pragmatism," suggesting that their landscapes provide "an interpretation of Frederick Law Olmsted's vision in the vocabulary of a new era" (Levee 1990, 50). When they first began considering the design of an innovative system of neighborhood parks for Chicago in December of 1903, however, they recommended that the formal style be followed. The designers feared that using "natural scenery in the form of irregular ornamental lakes, undulating lawns, and informal plantations" in sites that only ranged from ten to sixty acres could result in "the petty rendering of what can be far better accomplished in parks many times as large" (Letter to Mr. Henry C. Foreman 1903, 11). Officials of the South Park Commission were reluctant to

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completely depart from the earlier tradition of naturalism, and the final plans show a compromise. The "lines of the landscaping were softened in the revised site plans, but the overall effect is formal" (Draper 1993, 4).

As might be expected by the Olmsted Brothers, the designs for the smallest sites of the system of fourteen neighborhood parks tended to be the most formal. These included four parks that were considered squares because their sites were ten acres or less in size: Armour, Cornell, Davis, Russell, and Hardin Squares. There was also Fuller Park which was just under eleven acres in size. In the designs for these squares, the fieldhouse and athletic components tended to be clustered along one edge of the park. Symmetrically organized in square and oval configurations in precincts surrounding the fieldhouse, the athletic components included the children's playgrounds, running track, wading pool, separate men's and women's open air gymnasiums, swimming pool and changing booths. The rest of the landscape was devoted to a sunken ball field surrounded by an elevated, tree-lined walking path which had perimeter fencing (Tippens and Sniderman 1989, 23). The fieldhouse, the athletic precincts, and the ball field tended to be divided by a formal promenade with a center concourse. The center concourse often had a formally arranged grid of trees, which surrounded an area often used as a music court.

The series of plans developed by the Olmsted brothers for Parks #15-18 between 1910 and 1912 were strongly related to the designs for the original system of fourteen parks. They included all of the features of the earlier neighborhood parks, and were systematically arranged in the same manner. Rather than dividing the parks into two major components, the ball field and athletic component precincts, most of their plans for the second generation neighborhood parks were divided into three areas (Foulds 1994). The third area was a passive lawn for "gentler amusements" (Recommendations by Olmsted Brothers, South Park Commissioner Minutes of June 30, 1911). The Olmsted Brothers also recommended groves, and bandstands, and formal landscape features such as promenades and raised terraces.

At least eleven plans were developed by the Olmsted Brothers for Park #16, which was later officially named Trumbull Park. Most of these plans divided the park into the three components. Several of the designs show a central fieldhouse with a rectangular ball field on one side, and a tear-drop shaped passive lawn on the other. Other options show the fieldhouse on one end of the park, but these too include the passive lawn area.

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On June 14th of 1911, General Superintendent J. Frank Foster recommended that one plan be adopted for parks #15 and #16, and that #17 and #18 utilize two altogether different ones. Then, on June 30th, Commissioner Hutchinson moved that *one* general plan be adopted for all four parks (Preliminary Plan for #17, File 1930, no. 8). This plan had a central ball field, tear-drop shaped lawn on one end and rectangular ball field on the other (Foulds 1994). It was unusual for the South Park Commission to utilize the same design for more than one park. In fact, in planning the original system of fourteen parks the Olmsteds had convinced the Commission that it would be "undesirable to make these playgrounds substantially all alike" (Letter to Mr. Henry C. Foreman 1903, 11). Although many of the original fourteen parks had sites of similar sizes and conditions, and all of their plans included the same vocabulary of elements and facilities, each had its own unique design.

In 1911, the minutes from the South Park Commission's official proceedings note that the preparations for the four parks had begun with the filling and grading, and the laying of the sewers. The implemented plans revealed a virtually identical Grand Crossing Park (Park #15) and Trumbull Park (Park #16), much as J. Frank Foster had recommended. The only differences between these parks were the directions they face, and that Trumbull Park had a monoculture planting of ginkgo trees in its central alley. In 1912, and again in 1915, the community of Grand Crossing (Park #15) had requested that the orientation of their park be reversed due to the proximity of the ball field to a nearby church. In some of the Olmsteds' plans, the alternate direction layout had already been featured. Plans to implement the very same landscape design (without the ginkgos) at Mann Park (#17 at Hegewisch) were fully intended by the Commission up through the early thirties, though they were never realized as such. Tuley Park, however, which was formerly known as #18 in the Burnside neighborhood, was implemented in 1927 with a similar layout, but has an entirely different fieldhouse in plan as well as elevation.

What exactly happened between the plans of the Olmsted Brothers and the implemented landscapes is hard to determine. The landscapes, which were designed in-house, were decidedly influenced by the Olmsted plans. A perusal of the eleven plans for Trumbull Park and the plans for the other three parks reveal many similarities to the implemented plans. The in-house plans are, however, more formal, and have the same vocabulary that the Olmsteds had used with the original fourteen parks. In a manner similar to the plans for the original ten squares, the Trumbull Park site was divided into

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two areas, following the grid of the city of Chicago. The raised and lowered areas of topography, straight rows of trees, and classically inspired fieldhouse all reinforce Trumbull Park's feeling of formality.

The fieldhouse in Trumbull Park wasn't designed until 1914, and could possibly be attributed to an in-house engineer named Linn White. The structures in Trumbull Park and Grand Crossing, again, were identical, and utilized shared construction documents. The annual report of 1916 states that "the buildings will be complete and commodious of character similar to the best heretofore erected in other south parks" (South Park Commissioners Report of the General Superintendent, 1916, 39). This meant that they were to resemble the earlier designs of Burnham and his employee Edward Bennett. The buildings were designed in the symmetrical Beaux-Arts classical style, which was expressed at its height during the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, where Daniel Burnham was chief architect. Edward Bennett stated that "classical elements are best for the public realm" (Tippens and Sniderman 1989, 24), and Linn White took this to heart when he designed the concrete buildings.

The Beaux Arts Style refers to the architectural school in France around the turn of the century called "L' Ecole des Beaux Arts." While it turned out architects who were free to design in any style they chose, its teachings were based on classical precedents. The classicism dictated that buildings have a symmetrical facade, with wall surfaces having decorative details such as garlands, floral patterns, and pilasters. Another concern of the Beaux Arts practitioners involved the formal planning of the spatial relationships between buildings. A classical spatial treatment used was the central placement of the most important building, as at the Court of Honor in the World's Columbian Exposition. To introduce an even higher degree of monumentality, the building might be raised on a higher plane than the rest of the buildings and landscape. This is true of Trumbull Park's fieldhouse, the fact that it sits on the highest plane of the park. The area is raised about two feet from the grid of trees and music court. The tree plane, then, is above the sunken ball field and the outdoor gymnasiums. It is interesting to note that by the time the fieldhouse in Tuley Park was implemented, the classical style of fieldhouse had been replaced by the Spanish Revival.

As explained in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, (section FII, 9), the fieldhouse building material was a reinforced concrete with very large aggregate, that

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was known as "marblecrete" or "popcorn concrete." Fortunately, the more recent application of gunnite to the building's exterior does not compromise its integrity. The cast details were intended to be broad interpretations of classical elements such as swags, dentils, and applied flowers, and all are still intact. The facades at either end of the fieldhouse, with their gables and symmetrical half round window organization, are classically similar in appearance to the Baths of Diocletian, which certainly appealed to the South Park Commission and their classical ideals.

The cast concrete carried through to the interior moldings (Tippens 1988, 45). The buildings were built with male and female gymnasiums, and locker rooms with showers. In Trumbull Park's fieldhouse, the women's locker room retains many of its historic features, including wooden changing stalls and an equipment distribution area with metal counters. Upstairs are club rooms, where there once was a library that had 3500 books (Sloan 1936, 43). The women's gymnasium has a stage at one end and an upper balcony with the original wooden seats, while the men's gymnasium, also with a balcony, leads to a large swimming pool which originally had a glazed terra cotta lining.

On July 2nd, 1915, the Irondale neighborhood petitioned to have Park #16 officially named "South Deering Park." This was denied, and on August 15, 1917, the name was officially Lyman Trumbull Park, after the honorable Lyman Trumbull, a lawyer, Judge of the Supreme Court of Illinois, U.S. congressman and senator, and an active supporter of the passage of laws in the late 1800's that secured the emancipation of slaves (South Park Commissioners 1923, 15). Ironically, it was in this neighborhood where notable race riots would break out in the fifties when the first black family moved into the Trumbull Park Homes, the CHA project that was built adjacent to the east end of the Park (Bowly 1978, 80). The area today continues to house people with a variety of ethnic backgrounds, whom, while not at the same capacity as their predecessors, continue to use their park and enjoy the gingko trees.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

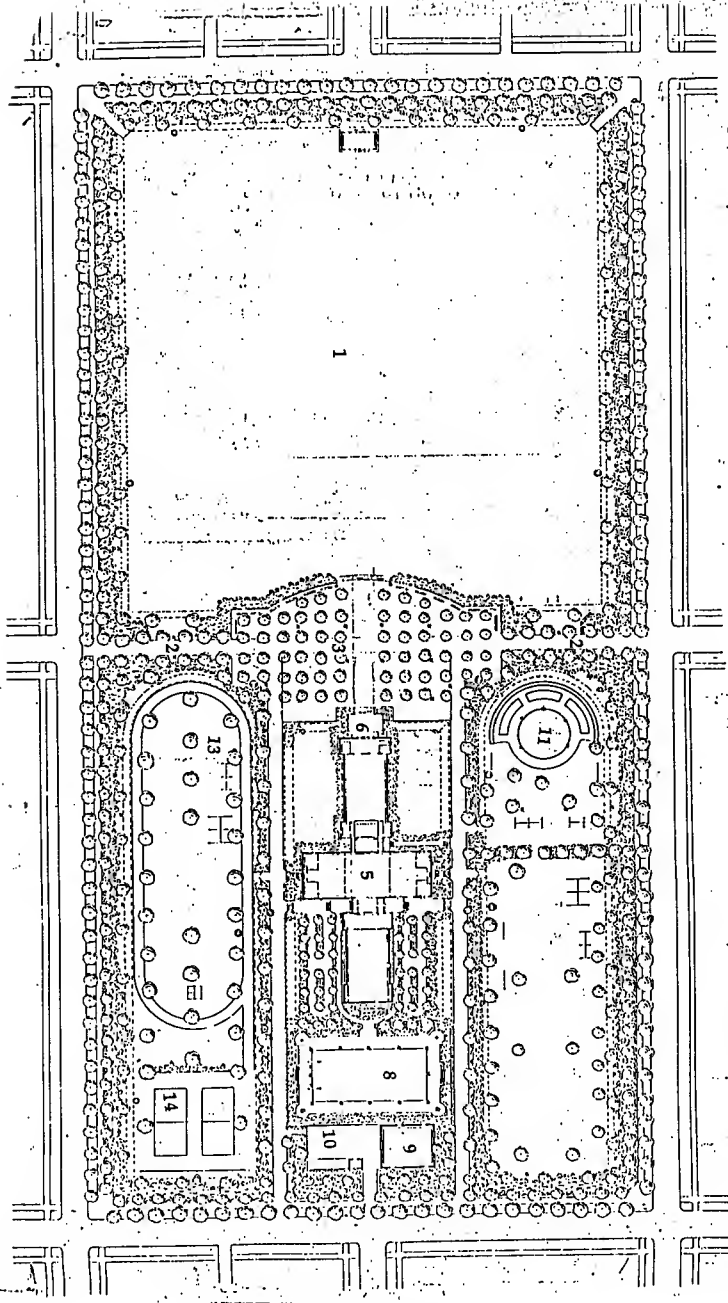
Verbal Boundary Description

The property is bounded on the north by the south curb-line of E. 103rd Street, on the south by the north curb-line of E. 105th Street, and is bisected by E. 104th Street. The east is bounded by the west curb-line of S. Bensley Street, and the west is bounded by the east curb-line of S. Oglesby Street.

Boundary Justification

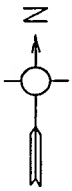
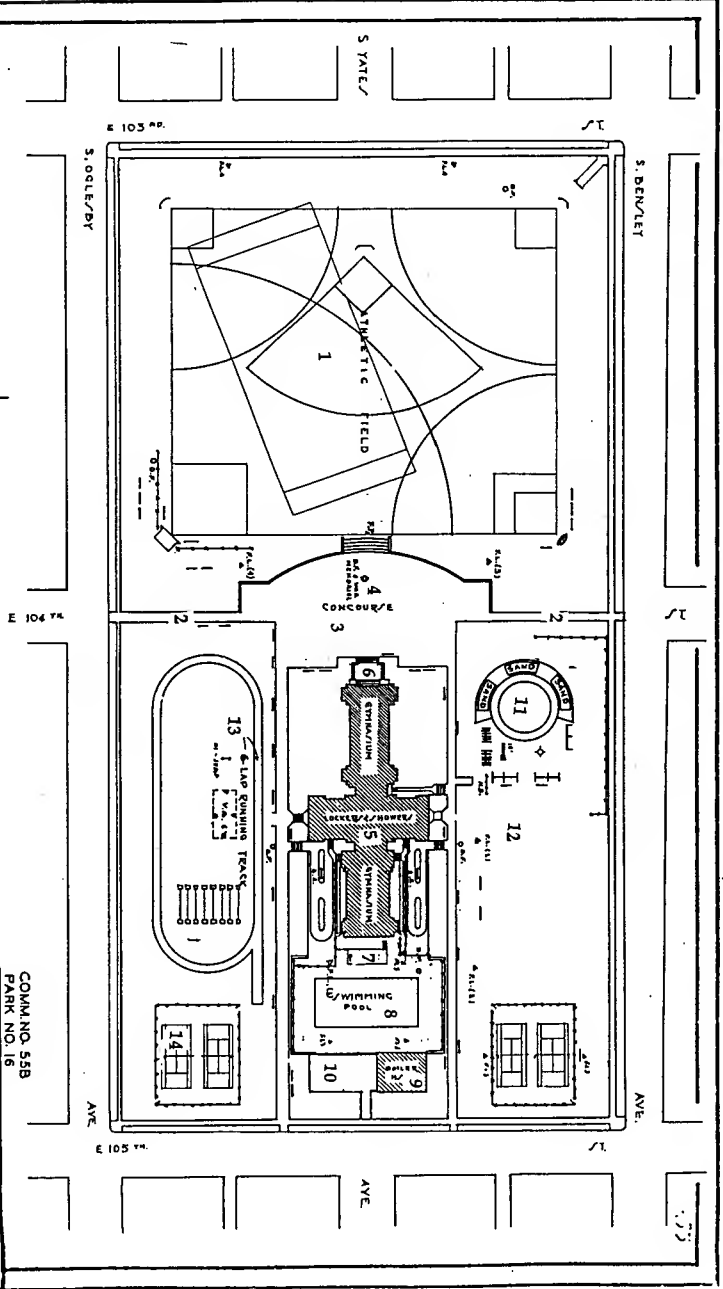
This is the plot of land historically associated with the park during its period of significance.

Trumbull Park
Trumbull Park



Plan A

Trumbull Park



2400 E. 103RD ST.

Plan B

COMM. NO. 55B
PARK NO. 16

TRUMBULL PARK
SCALE: 1" = 100' ±



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



IN REPLY REFER TO.

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

MAY 6 1995

Preservation Services
APR 28 1995

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 4/17/95 THROUGH 4/21/95

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number NHL Status, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARKANSAS, NOT SPRING COUNTY, Cabin No. 1, Cabin area access rd., Lake Catherine State Park, Shorewood Hills, 95000455, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS)

ARKANSAS, PRAIRIE COUNTY, Prairie County Courthouse, Jct. of Magnolia and Prairie Sts., DeValls Bluff, 95000457, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

ARKANSAS, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Cha Omega Chapter House, 940 Maple St., Fayetteville, 95000456, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

COLORADO, EL PASO COUNTY, Calhan Rock Island Railroad Depot, 252 ft. W of Denver St. on Rock Island RR right-of-way, Calhan, 95000476, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

FLORIDA, PALM BEACH COUNTY, Milton-Myers American Legion Post No. 65, 263 NE. 5th Ave., Delray Beach, 95000471, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

FLORIDA, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, Frere, Jules, House, 2404 Sunrise Blvd., Fort Pierce, 95000467, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

FLORIDA, SUWANNEE COUNTY, Allison, George, House, 418 W. Duval St., Live Oak, 95000369, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

ILLINOIS, ADAMS COUNTY, South Side German Historic District (Boundary Increase), Roughly bounded by Jefferson, S. 12th, Jackson and S. 5th Sts., Quincy, 95000481, BOUNDARY INCREASE, 4/20/95

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, Moultrie County Courthouse, 10 S. Main St., Sullivan, 95000489, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Bryn Mawr Avenue Historic District, Bryn Mawr Ave. from Sheridan Rd. to Broadway, Chicago, 95000482, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Hamilton Park, 513 W. 72nd St., Chicago, 95000487, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Chicago Park District MPS)

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Indian Boundary Park, 2500 W. Lunt, Chicago, 95000485, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Chicago Park District MPS)

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Portage Park, 4100 N. Long Ave., Chicago, 95000484, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Chicago Park District MPS)

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, Ris, Jacob A., Park, 6100 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, 95000483, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Chicago Park District MPS)

ILLINOIS, MARION COUNTY, Jehle, Louis, House, 511 E. Fifth St., Pana, 95000490, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

ILLINOIS, MERCER COUNTY, Willits, Levi, House, 202 Main St., New Boston, 95000488, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

ILLINOIS, WOODFORD COUNTY, Schertz, Joseph, House, IL 116, 1 mi. W of city limits, Metamora vicinity, 95000491, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

IOWA, HANCOCK COUNTY, Pilot Knob State Park: Portals in Area 5b, Off IA 9 SE of Forest City, Pilot Knob State Park, Forest City vicinity, 95000362, NOMINATION, 4/17/95 (CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks MPS)

IOWA, JACKSON COUNTY, Squires, J. E., House, 418 W. Pleasant St., Maquoketa, 95000385, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Maquoketa MPS)

KANSAS, PAWNEE COUNTY, Rabbit-Doerr House, 423 W. 5th St., Larned, 95000477, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

MICHIGAN, MARQUETTE COUNTY, Negaunee State Bank Building, 331 Iron St., Negaunee, 95000295, NOMINATION, 4/13/95

NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Alert-Hatcher Building, Jct. of Second Ave. and Main St., SE corner, Hillsboro, 95000460, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Hillsboro MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Bucher, William N., House, 300 W. Main St., Hillsboro, 95000461, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Hillsboro MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Meyers House, Main St. N side between 4th and 5th Aves., Hillsboro, 95000463, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Hillsboro MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Miller, George Gambling and Ninette Stocker, House, Elenora St. S side, W of Union Church, Hillsboro, 95000465, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Hillsboro MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Robins, Will M., House, Jct. of Main St. and Fifth Ave., SW corner, Hillsboro, 95000462, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Hillsboro MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Sullivan, Cornelius, House, Jct. of Elenora and First Ave., SW corner, Hillsboro, 95000459, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Hillsboro MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Webster, John M., House, Jct. of Main St. and Fifth Ave., SE corner, Hillsboro, 95000464, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Hillsboro MPS)

NEW YORK, CAYUGA COUNTY, House at 15 East Cayuga Street, 15 E. Cayuga St., Moravia, 95000472, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Moravia MPS)

NEW YORK, ESSEX COUNTY, Trudeau Sanatorium, Trudeau Rd., Saranac Lake vicinity, 95000479, NOMINATION, 4/20/95 (Saranac Lake MPS)

NEW YORK, NIAGARA COUNTY, Bond, Col. William M. and Nancy Ralston, House, 143 Ontario St., Lockport, 95000529, NOMINATION, 4/20/95

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